



**Concordia**  
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Complexe des Sciences  
**RICHARD J. RENAUD**  
Science Complex

Inauguration of the  
**Richard J. Renaud Science Complex**  
September 22, 2003

This is a day of promise – promises kept and the promise of great things to come.

We are inaugurating an \$85 million complex made to order for the pursuit of scientific knowledge at Concordia in the 21st century. It will be home to a new generation of professors and promising young researchers. We are welcoming a record number of students, over 32,000, on both of our campuses this fall.

Today, we are also taking a giant step towards fulfilling a promise that we made to ourselves several years ago to revitalize our Loyola Campus. And there is still much more to come on this campus.

We have not forgotten the traditions of excellence and accessibility, the cornerstone of Concordia's founding institutions, Sir George Williams and Loyola. Neither has one of Loyola College's illustrious sons, Richard Renaud.

We owe much to the generosity of Richard Renaud and his ongoing commitment of time and energy to Concordia. The gift that he made to our last capital campaign on

behalf of himself and his wife, Carolyn, has made it possible for hundreds of students to attend university who otherwise would not have been able to do so.

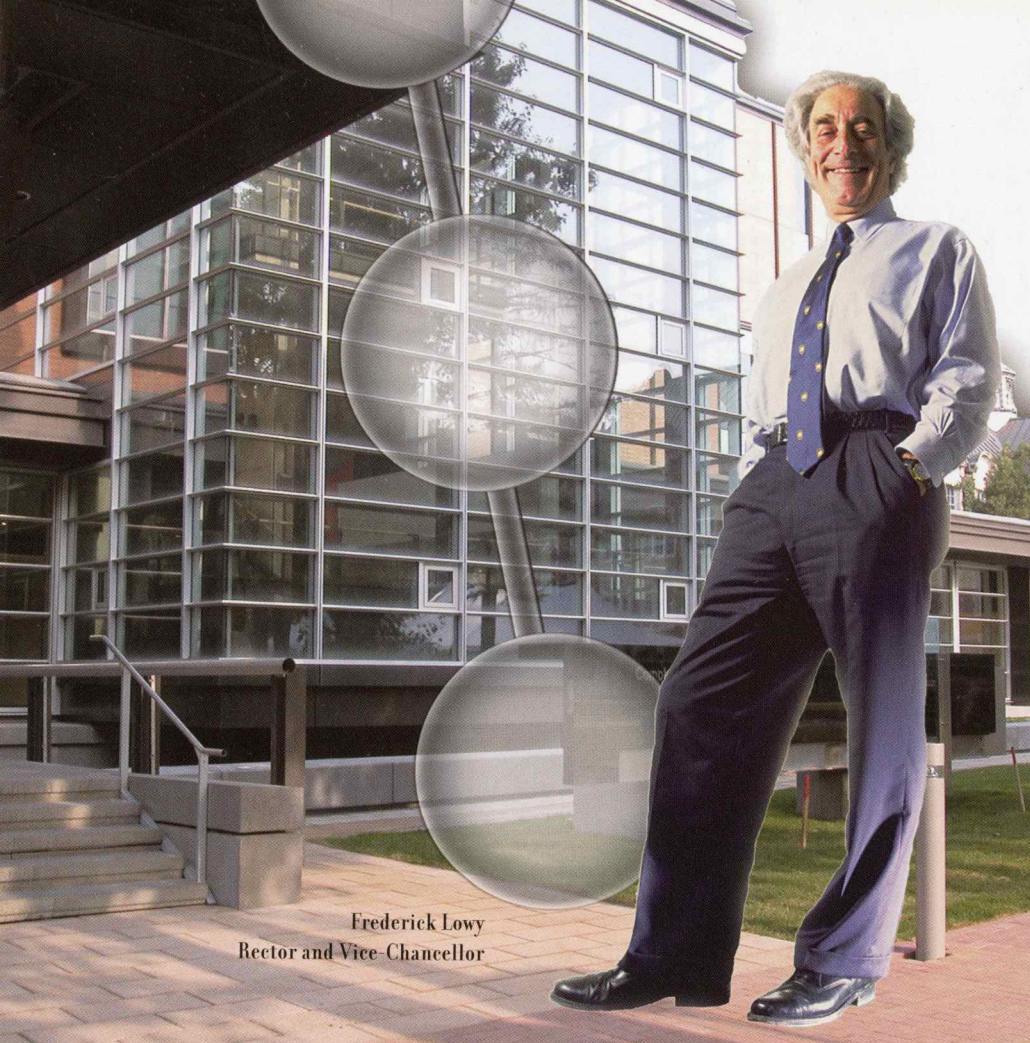
Today, we are witness to the opening of new science complex that will proudly bear his name.

The Richard J. Renaud Science Complex is not only a dream come true for our Faculty of Arts and Science, but also a momentous occasion for the entire university. We are stepping into a new era of scientific teaching and research at Concordia that holds great promise for our city, our province, our country and beyond. This is a world-class installation for an outstanding institution.

There is a new home for science at Concordia and its name is the Richard J. Renaud Science Complex.

Frederick Lowy





Frederick Lowy  
Rector and Vice-Chancellor

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Concordia University and to our beautiful Loyola Campus. The opening of the Richard J. Renaud Science Complex marks a new beginning for science teaching and research at Concordia. We are determined that this state-of-the-art complex will enable Concordia to become one of the leading centres of scientific research in Quebec and Canada.

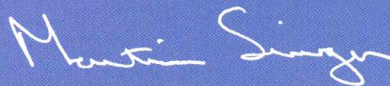
As someone who has long advocated for a greater use of the Loyola Campus, it gives me great satisfaction to see this campus play a lead role in the series of projects that are set to physically transform Concordia over the next few years. The arrival of up to 2,000 students, staff and faculty members signals a renaissance for a campus steeped in history and tradition.

The construction of the science complex would not have been possible without the efforts and dedication of numerous individuals. In particular, I would like to thank Mr. Richard Renaud for his generous financial support of this and so many other Concordia initiatives; Dr. Frederick Lowy, Rector and Vice-Chancellor of Concordia University, whose championing of this project was instrumental in its success; and

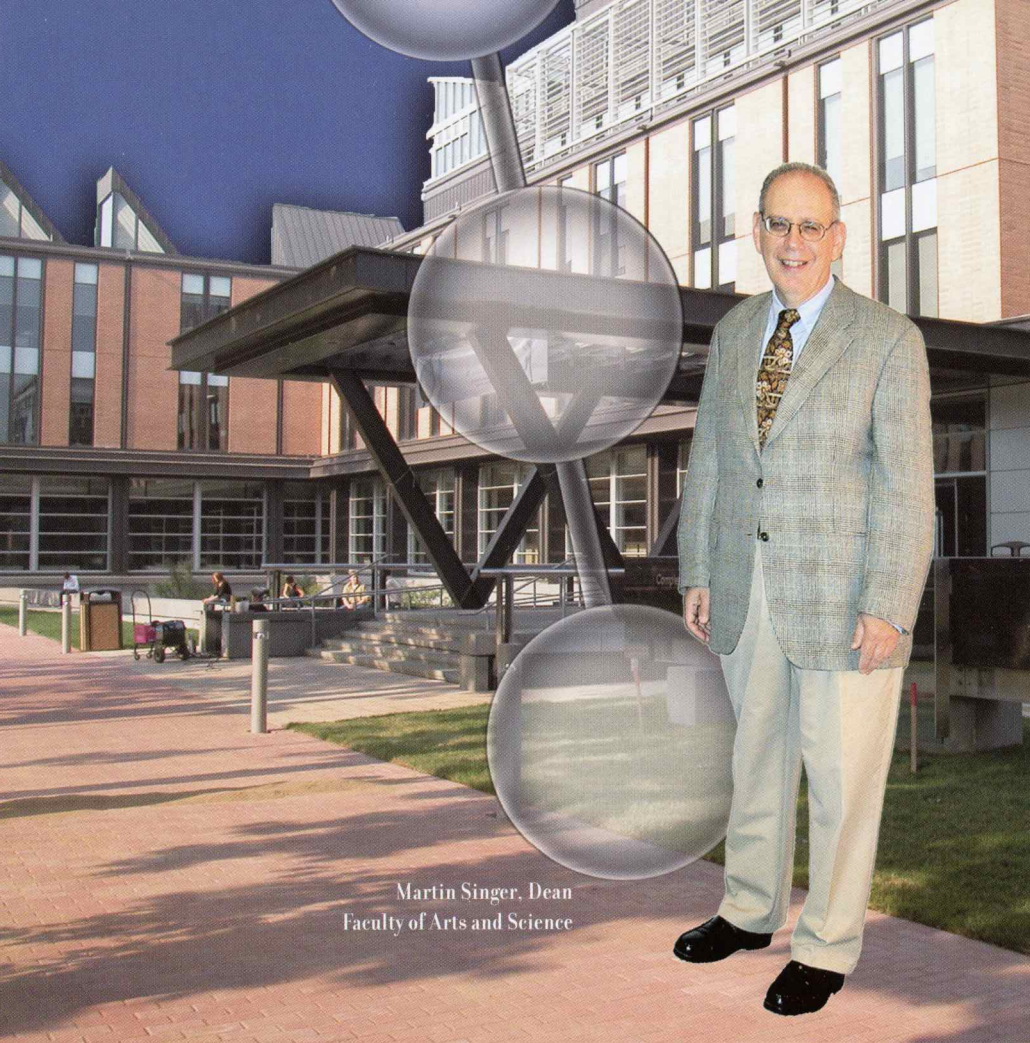
Dr. Robert Roy, Vice-Dean of Planning for the Faculty of Arts and Science, without whom the physical construction of the building might never have been accomplished.

The physical changes in the Faculty of Arts and Science have only just begun. We are now planning to renovate the upper floors of the Henry F. Hall Building for our Social Science departments and the J.W. McConnell Building for our Humanities departments. By next spring, we expect to begin major work on the former Drummond Science Building here on our Loyola Campus, which will become the new home for our Departments of Journalism and Communication Studies.

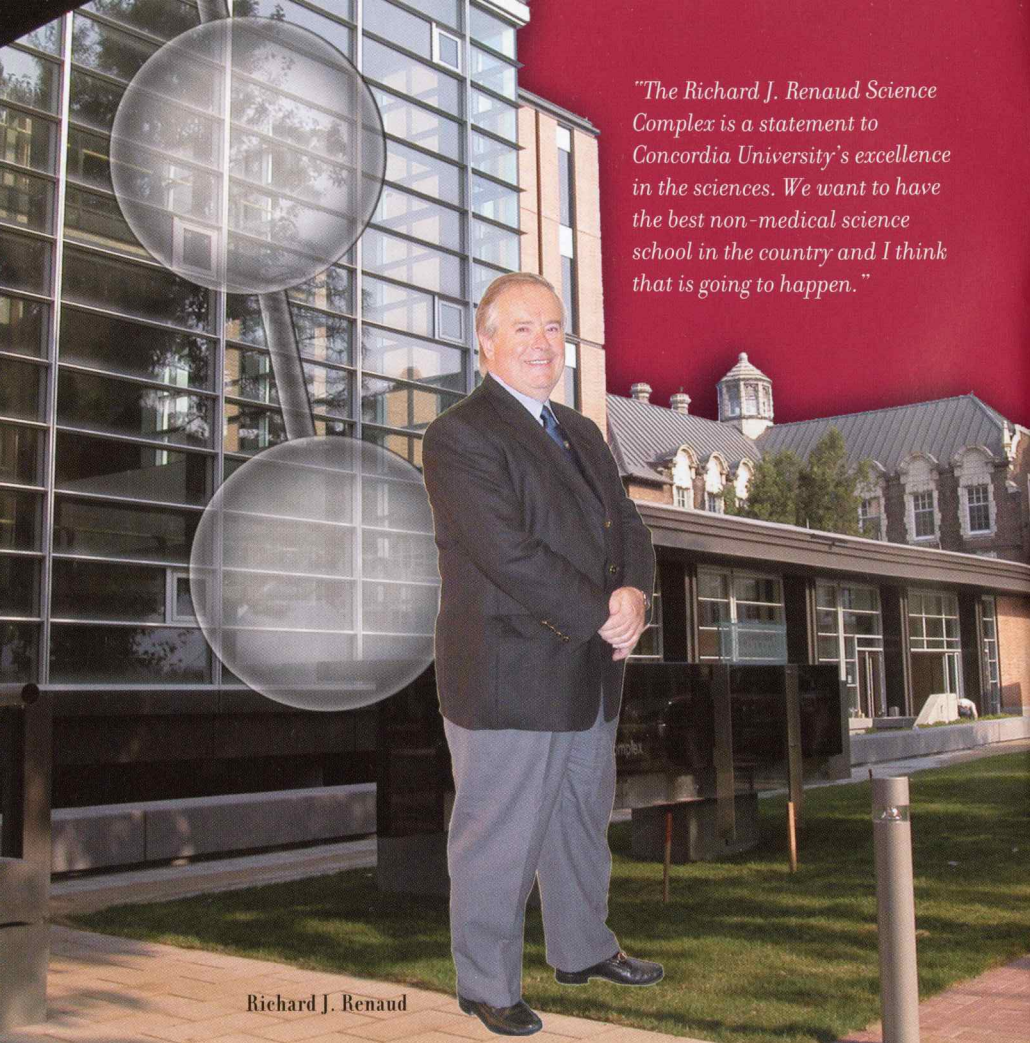
Once again, I thank you for joining with us to celebrate this momentous occasion in the history of Concordia University and I look forward to welcoming you back to our Loyola Campus in the future.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Martin Singer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Martin" and last name "Singer" clearly distinguishable.





Martin Singer, Dean  
Faculty of Arts and Science

A photograph of Richard J. Renaud, a man with grey hair wearing a dark suit, light blue shirt, and patterned tie. He is standing outdoors with his hands clasped in front of him, smiling at the camera. Behind him is a modern building with a large glass facade that reflects the sky and trees. To the right, a red building with a grey roof and dormer windows is visible. The sky is a solid red color. Two large, semi-transparent spheres are overlaid on the image, one above and one below the man, both containing a grid pattern and reflecting the surrounding environment.

*"The Richard J. Renaud Science Complex is a statement to Concordia University's excellence in the sciences. We want to have the best non-medical science school in the country and I think that is going to happen."*

Richard J. Renaud



# The Richard J. Renaud Science Complex

## The new face of science at Concordia University

The opening of the Richard J. Renaud Science Complex marks the beginning of a new era in science teaching and research at Concordia University. The building houses the Departments of Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Exercise Science, Physics and a major component of Psychology, as well as Science College, the Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics, the Centre for Studies in Behavioural Neurobiology, the Centre for Research in Molecular Modeling and several smaller research centres and support facilities.

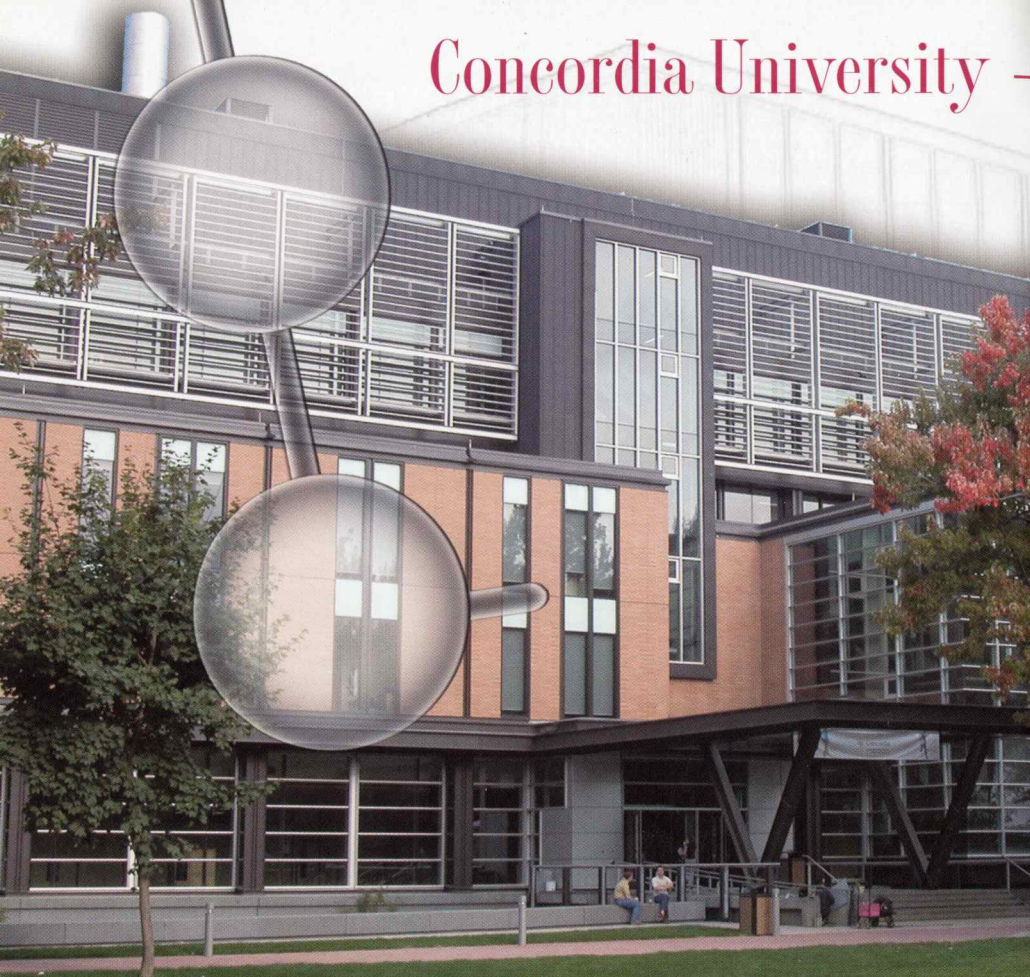
This marks the first time in the history of Concordia that all of the university's natural scientists are based in the same building. Having a community of scientists will foster much greater collaboration between researchers from different fields who rely increasingly on the exchange of ideas, information and even equipment, across disciplines.

The Richard J. Renaud Science Complex features more than 300 state-of-the-art research laboratories, specifically designed to meet the particular research needs of

each of our professors. The building has already enabled the Faculty of Arts and Science to attract top teaching and research talent. Surrounded by modern facilities, Concordia's science professors are poised to attract increasing amounts of external research dollars from both government and business sources. This will enable them to hire and train an increasing number of graduate students – in essence, the next generation of great Canadian scientists.

The Richard J. Renaud Science Complex also features dozens of modern teaching laboratories, reflecting the evolving nature of science instruction, which today relies heavily on hands-on experimentation. Concordia's science graduates will continue to be well prepared and well equipped with the skills and experience that they need to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving society.

# Concordia University –





# a tradition of excellence and accessibility

Tracing its academic roots back more than 100 years, the Concordia University of today was founded in 1974 as a result of the merger of Loyola College and Sir George Williams University.

Combining Loyola's rich tradition of liberal arts with Sir George Williams's long track record of providing accessible university education, the modern Concordia is committed to academic achievement while maintaining a real-world perspective.

Concordia is among the largest and fastest-growing universities in Canada, thanks to several years of record growth in student enrolment. The university currently boasts more than 32,000 credit students and 7,500 non-credit continuing education students – representing the largest student body in the school's history. These students represent more than 160 countries and our classrooms and campuses are a melting pot of diverse languages, religions and ethnic backgrounds.

The Faculty of Arts and Science is the largest of Concordia's four Faculties, offering more than 1,800 courses a year in 26 academic departments and colleges, encompassing the Natural Sciences, the Social Sciences and the Humanities. In fact, Concordia's Faculty of Arts and Science is larger than about half of the universities in Canada.

One of the most exciting developments taking place in the Faculty of Arts and Science is the renewal of its professorial ranks. Since 1997, the Faculty has hired more than 150 tenured and tenure-track professors, including 32 in the natural sciences, marking the biggest influx of new faculty members in a generation. These new professors, culled from thousands of applicants from around the world, are in many cases among the most promising teachers and researchers in their fields. In several instances, these professors have turned down tenured positions at the most prestigious American and Canadian universities in order to be a part of the exciting growth taking place at Concordia.

These new professors, who now represent more than one-third of our entire faculty complement, have infused our classrooms and laboratories with fresh perspectives and new approaches to teaching and research, inspiring their students to reach new heights. They are also playing a big role in Concordia's efforts to reinforce its graduate studies program, offering students a rich selection of options at the Master's and Doctoral levels.

The influx of new professors has also altered the research landscape at Concordia. Our professors now attract millions of dollars worth of external research funding each year. The opening of the Richard J. Renaud Science Complex will build on this emerging strength and change the face of science in Quebec and Canada.



# A new building

... and a new generation of researchers

By the end of the current academic year, the Faculty of Arts and Science will have hired nearly 200 tenured and tenure-track professors within a seven-year period, including about 40 in the natural science disciplines. Their contributions in the areas of teaching and research are changing the face of science at Concordia University.

Complexe des Sciences

**RICHARD J. RENAUD**

Science Complex



## Andrew Chapman, Psychology

With all of the scientific advances that we have made in the last century, very little is known about the human brain and how it manages to store years' worth of memories and vast amounts of information. It's a question that Andrew Chapman has been chipping away at since he joined Concordia University's Department of Psychology four years ago. By charting the physical changes that take place in the brain's neurons as it records information, he is hoping to one day come up with answers to this great riddle. And if we can understand better how memories are created and stored, we'll have a better idea of what goes wrong as memory fails us in old age.



A photograph of Emma Despland, a young woman with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a light pink button-down shirt and black trousers. She is standing outdoors with her left hand on her hip, smiling at the camera. Behind her is a modern building with large windows and two large, circular, metallic light fixtures. The background is slightly blurred.

## Emma Despland, Biology

When does a cute, furry caterpillar become a menace to society?

When it sheds its harmless disposition in favour of the mentality of a swarm. It's rare, but when it does occur it can have a devastating impact on the surrounding environment. Enter Emma Despland, lifelong bug addict and researcher in Concordia University's Department of Biology. From her laboratory in the Richard J. Renaud Science Complex, Despland is determined to figure out what factors propel caterpillars, moths and other insects to gang up and wreak devastation across large swaths of land. The more we understand about insect behaviour, the better we'll be at determining at what point they become a cause for concern.



## Alain Leroux, Exercise Science

When a foot injury dashed the Olympic hopes of badminton player Alain Leroux, he immediately became interested in learning more about the human body and its limitations. Today, Leroux is part of a group of promising young researchers in Concordia University's Department of Exercise Science intent on learning how regular exercise affects the human body. Leroux focuses his research on the rehabilitation of victims of neuromuscular disorders; though the medical community has long believed that stroke victims cannot recover muscle function beyond the initial weeks of the trauma, Leroux is busy collecting data to prove otherwise.





## Yves Gélinas, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Scientists have been warning for years about the environmental dangers posed by increased carbon dioxide emissions. Yves Gélinas, a researcher in Concordia University's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, is bent on adding his voice to the growing chorus – even if he has to descend to the depths of the ocean to prove it. Gélinas combs the world's ocean floors in search of marine sediments; when analyzed chemically, those sediments can yield important clues about past carbon dioxide emissions. By matching those increases with records of vast climatic change, Gélinas is hoping to figure out what effect the pollution that we produce today will have on the world that we live in tomorrow.